

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Nashville, Tennessee

August 31, 2001

In Re:)
)
)
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S)
ENTRY INTO LONG DISTANCE (INTERLATA)) **Docket No. 97-00309**
SERVICE IN TENNESSEE PURSUANT TO)
SECTION 271 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)
ACT OF 1996.)

**ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION
OF
US LEC OF TENNESSEE, INC.**

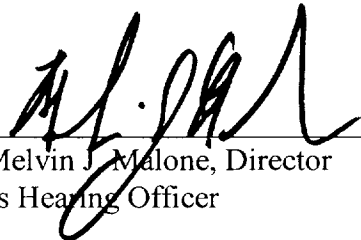
This matter is before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") upon the petition of US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. ("US LEC") to intervene and participate in this proceeding as their interests may appear. The Authority appointed Director Melvin J. Malone as Hearing Officer for the purpose of presiding over any pre-hearing or status conferences, resolving discovery issues, and such other matters as may aid in the disposition of this case. The hearing on the merits will be held before the Directors of the Authority.

No party has filed objections to the interventions with the Authority. The Hearing Officer has determined that this proceeding and the actions which may be taken by the Authority herein may affect or determine the legal rights and duties of the Petitioners and that the interest of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of this proceeding will not be impaired by allowing these interventions.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:


1. That US LEC is hereby given leave to intervene and participate in this proceeding as their interests may appear and receive copies of any notices, orders or other documents herein.

2. That any party aggrieved by the Authority's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Authority within fifteen (15) days from and after the date of this Order.



Melvin J. Malone, Director
as Hearing Officer

ATTEST:



Executive Secretary